

1) (currently amended) An improved tape measure for making an internal measurement from a member of the type having,

a tape coiled in a housing having a tape hook external to the housing on an unattached end portion of the tape, and measurement lines and numerals on a concave side portion of the tape which increment from the hook and which can be read when the hook is pulled from the housing, wherein the improvement comprises:

a hook having a T shaped cross section, said T having an upper portion projecting upwardly above the longer arm attached to the coiled tape, in addition to a lower portion extending below the longer arm, and wherein a non slip means is positioned along an outside face portion of the hook including the upper portion of the T so that when the coiled tape is extended and arched to maintain the hook at the elevation of the housing, the upper portion of the hook and the non-slip means thereon will engage the member which the internal measurement is being taken from and [outside of the tape hook is pressed against one member] the tape hook will be less inclined to slip therealong.

2) (original) A tape measure as in claim 1 wherein the non slip means comprises a roughened surface having a multiplicity of rough points.

3) (original) A tape measure as in claim 2 wherein the non slip means comprises a pointed barb.

4) (original) A tape measure as in claim 1 further comprising a light positioned to illuminate a measured length on the tape.

5) (original) A tape measure as in claim 4 wherein the light comprises a light emitting diode.

6) (original) A tape measure as in claim 5 further comprising a tape brake and a light switch which is positioned to be operated in conjunction with the tape brake.

7) (previously presented) A tape measure as in claim 6 wherein the light switch comprises a slide button positioned in the vicinity of the tape brake for convenient operation.

8) (currently amended) A tape measure as in claim 4 wherein the light comprises a focused light positioned to precisely and more brightly illuminate the measured length on the tape than the surrounding lines therealong so that the exact measured length on the tape is clearly indicated by the focused light and the problem of parallax is [largely] avoided thereby enabling the precise measured length to be read when one's eye is not aligned along a front edge portion of the housing.

9) (original) A tape measure as in claim 8 wherein the focused light comprises a laser.

10) (currently amended) A tape measure as in claim 9 wherein the tape comprises numerals for outside measurement of one color and numerals for inside measurement of a different color and wherein the numerals for inside measurement significantly contrast with a color of the light emitting diode so that the numerals for inside measurement will significantly stand out from the numerals for outside measurement when the light emitting diode is switched on.

11 - 14) (withdrawn)

15.) (original) A method of taking an internal measurement from a member with a tape measure having a tape coiled in a housing, a tape hook external to the housing on an unattached end portion of the tape, measurement lines and numerals on a concave side portion of the tape which increment from the hook and which can be read when the hook is pulled from the housing comprises the steps of:

positioning a non slip means along an outside face portion of the hook on the tape measure; and,

pressing the non slip means on the outside of the hook against one member with the tape so that the hook will be less inclined to slip therealong.

16.) (original) A method as in claim 15 wherein the tape measure comprises a light positioned to illuminate a measured length on the tape, and further comprising the step of switching on the light when measuring.

17.) (original) A method as in claim 16 wherein the light comprises a light emitting diode.

18.) (original) A method as in claim 15 wherein the light comprises a focused light configured so that the problem of parallax is largely avoided.

19.) (cancelled)

20.) (new) An improved tape measure for making an internal measurement from a member of the type having,

a tape coiled in a housing having a tape hook external to the housing on an unattached end portion of the tape, and measurement lines and numerals on a concave side portion of the tape which increment from the hook and which can be read when the hook is pulled from the housing, wherein the improvement comprises:

a focused light positioned to precisely and more brightly illuminate the measured length on the tape than the surrounding lines therealong so that the exact measured length on the tape is clearly indicated by the focused light and the problem of parallax is [largely] avoided thereby enabling the precise measured length to be read when one's eye is not aligned along a front edge portion of the housing.

21) (new) A tape measure as in claim 20 wherein the light comprises a light emitting diode.

22) (new) A tape measure as in claim 20 wherein the focused light comprises a laser.

23) (new) An improved tape measure for making an internal measurement from a member of the type having,

a tape coiled in a housing having a tape hook external to the housing on an unattached end portion of the tape, and measurement lines and numerals on a concave side portion of the tape which increment from the hook and which can be read when the hook is pulled from the housing, wherein the improvement comprises:

a light emitting diode positioned to illuminate a measured length on the tape and wherein the tape comprises numerals for outside measurement of one color and numerals for inside measurement of a different color and wherein the numerals for inside measurement significantly contrast with a color of the light emitting diode so that the numerals for inside measurement will significantly stand out from the numerals for outside measurement when the light emitting diode is switched on.